

NEWS RELEASE

**Sawtooth National Forest
2647 Kimberly Road East
Twin Falls, ID 83301**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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1581-D4-157
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**FOREST HEALTH PROTECTION GRANTS AVAILABLE: APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE
FOR BLAINE, CUSTER AND LEMHI COUNTIES: DEADLINE OCTOBER 14, 2005**

KETCHUM, IDAHO.....Grant applications are now being accepted for private, family forest landowners in Blaine, Custer and Lemhi Counties who are experiencing trees killed by insects and disease.

According to Jim Rineholt, Grant Coordinator for the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, grants from the Idaho Department of Lands are available to assist private landowners with tree mortality on their privately owned forest lands. "The Idaho Department of Lands, in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service is once again providing cost-share incentives for non-industrial family forest owners," Rineholt stated. "These grants are for the purpose of dealing with forest health problems as part of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act. Private landowners within Blaine, Custer and Lemhi Counties now have the opportunity to apply for Federal Grants for doing work on their property in 2006."

Rineholt said that grant funds can be used to apply preventative sprays and pheromone pouches to protect high value trees, cut and remove beetle infested trees and thin stands of trees to improve growing conditions which will reduce mortality. Homeowners are required to match 25% of the total project cost with either cash or in-kind work.

Grant application forms can be obtained by contacting Jim Rineholt, Grant Coordinator, at the Sawtooth National Recreation Headquarters Office, located eight miles north of Ketchum. Rineholt's address is: Sawtooth National Recreation Area, 5 North Fork Canyon Road, Ketchum, ID 83340. He may also be reached by calling (208)727-5021 or electronically at jrineholt@fs.fed.us

Applications are also available on line at the Idaho Department of Lands website at <http://www2.state.id.us/lands/bureau/forasst.htm>

The deadline for submitting applications is October, 2005.

"This grant program has been extremely successful," Rineholt said. "In 2004, six homeowner

(more)

associations and one individual landowner were awarded grants totaling \$450,000. This year, more than \$546,569 in grants was distributed to seven homeowners associations and thirteen individuals for work treating 635 acres.”

In 2004, 7,500 trees were sprayed and 14,000 green infested and dead trees were cut and removed from 1,435 acres of private property as a result of the grant program.

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